



COUNTY OF LOS ANGELES

SYBIL BRAND COMMISSION FOR INSTITUTIONAL INSPECTIONS
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FOUNDER
Mrs. Sybil Brand

CHAIRPERSON
Mrs. Eleanor R. Montañó

VICE CHAIRPERSON
Mr. Frank S. Bacio

Ms. Barbara Bigby
Ms. Rita Hall
Mr. John A. Hammargren
Mrs. Anne S. Hill
Mr. Carl E. Moore

MINUTES OF THE **SYBIL BRAND COMMISSION FOR INSTITUTIONAL INSPECTIONS** **MONTHLY BUSINESS MEETING OF APRIL 21, 2010**

CALL TO ORDER

Chairperson Montañó called the meeting to order at 10:00 a.m.

OPENING CEREMONIES

Chairperson Montañó led in the Pledge of Allegiance followed by a moment of silence.

ATTENDANCE

Present

Chairperson Eleanor R. Montañó
Vice Chairperson Frank Bacio
Barbara Bigby
Rita Hall
John Hammargren
Anne S. Hill
Carl Moore

Guest

Cesar Menchala, Internal Services Department
Commander Margaret Ruiz, Los Angeles County Sheriff's Department
Captain Warren Asmus, LACSD
Sergeant Peter Hahn, LACSD
Lisa Campbell-Motton, Probation Department

Staff

Sandra Barbee, Division Chief
Angie Montes, Interim Division Chief
George Britton, Assistant Division Chief
Lee Millen
Nyla Jefferson

Sandra Barbee, Chief, Commission Services, noted that effective May 3, 2010 she will join the Treasurer Tax Collector's Office, and introduced Ms. Angie Montes who will become the interim Division Chief of Commission Services. Ms. Montes expressed her delight to attend the Commission meeting and her willingness to become acquainted with the work of the Commission.

Chairperson Montano welcomed Commissioner Hammargren and Captain Asmus back to the Commission.

ROUNDTABLE DISCUSSION

Internal Services Department

Cesar Menchala, Internal Services Department, reported that elevator #13 in Clara Shortridge Foltz Criminal Justice Center was repaired, and sally port #1 gate on the service level had a drive on the unit replaced, and the curtain will be replaced in about two weeks.

Sheriff's Department

Commander Margaret Ruiz, LASD, distributed the Inmate Assaults on Staff Reports. Commissioner Hall complimented Deputy Randy Bell's innovative programs at the Men's Central Jail and thanked Captain Cruz for his leadership and noted that the jail was very clean. Commander Ruiz will distribute, at the next Business meeting, the book titled *Incarceration Based Education* that teaches inmates how to live in the community and strives to help reduce inmate recidivism rates.

Commander Ruiz introduced Sergeant Peter Hahn, Special Victims Bureau, who discussed procedures for child abuse referrals and investigations. Sgt. Hahn reported that there are two different systems used for referrals ESCAR (Electronic Suspected Child Abuse Report), and Family and Children Index. ESCAR system is shared with DCFS, DA, Sheriff and Probation. The referral is immediately directed to the Sheriff's Department to investigate the alleged child abuse, and if validated a report is written, the child is released to a DCFS representative, DCFS places the child in a home, and a Sheriff investigation is conducted.

The Family and Children Index is a "pointer system" in that when the Sheriff's Department has a child victim case of physical or sexual abuse, the child's vitals and a case number become a permanent record in the Index. Any one of the County agencies who queries the child's name will access the history of that child. The person who is querying the system will have to contact the involved agencies to access more information; every Deputy receives ESCARS training. Sergeant Hahn distributed a training bulletin on Protective Custody of a minor.

Commander Ruiz advised that the National Agency on Exploitation of Children train smaller law enforcement agencies. Sergeant Hahn noted that the Sheriff's Department has 60 investigators reviewing 3500 cases of a year.

Captain Asmus reported that the Courts' budget will bottom out in 2012; in the interim, there have been layoffs and courtrooms closures which may prevent further downsizing. Sheriff and Probation Departments are collaborating to streamline the process of handling juveniles involved in use of force incidents. Also, video arraignment will begin soon at Glendale Courthouse consequently reducing one deputy budgeted item and eliminating the need to transport inmates. The first trial run for video conferencing Dependency Hearings of state prisoners is in a month. Commissioner Hall suggested video taping minors during the incident to neutralize confrontation.

Commissioner Moore noted that at Edelman Courthouse the sliding sally port panel is broken. Captain Asmus reported that the original vendor is no longer in business and the \$200,000 to repair the panel is cost prohibitive. However, a key is used to access the panel. Also, the gate at the Juvenile Justice Center has been repaired, and although the JJC Courthouse needs to be closed it's a community center valued by the citizenry.

Probation Department

Lisa Campbell-Motton, Probation Department, Director of Placement Quality Assurance, reported that Bayfront Youth and Family Services (formerly Harbor View) is planning to move. Children are Our Future (Constance House) is closed.

Ms. Campbell-Motton noted that there were three (3) incidences of child abuse in March 2010. One was a duplicate, a second was missing medication which prompted corrective action, and the third was physical abuse by staff and was unfounded. Staff is being trained to use the Family and Children Index, contact information only; sharing information is a lot easier if the agency knows the referral was from FCI.

There were 109 runaways, 8 youth ran away twice, 15 returned to their Group Home, 1 stayed with a relative, 23 are in juvenile hall, 5 are in camp, and 57 are whereabouts unknown.

Ms. Campbell-Motton proudly announced that two youth met the criteria to be featured on Wednesday's Child adoption program on FOX11 KTTV. Also, on April 22, 2010, the second adoption in Los Angeles County and the third nationally will be held in the Pasadena Courthouse at 2:00 p.m. Mr. Jaime Zamorano is adopting a probation youth and has already adopted the youth's siblings. It takes two years to adopt a youth ages 7-13 years of age, and there have been 62 youths referred to probation for permanency.

Department of Children and Family Services

No representative in attendance.

Community Care Licensing

No representative in attendance.

Auditor Controller's Department

No representative in attendance.

Mental Health Department

No representative in attendance.

Chairperson Montaña thanked everyone for their informative presentations.

APPROVAL OF APRIL 14, 2010 MEETING MINUTES

On motion of Vice Chairperson Bacio, seconded by Commissioner Bigby and unanimously carried, the minutes of the meeting of April 14, 2010 were approved.

(Commissioner Hammargren was excused from the meeting.)

CHAIRPERSON'S REPORT

- Chairperson Montaña received a letter from Sheriff Lee Baca thanking the Commission for the favorable comments regarding the Pico Rivera Sheriff's Station.
- Sheriff Baca invited Commissioners to attend the 41st Annual Los Angeles County Peace Officers' Memorial Ceremony, Wednesday, May 26, 2010, at 10:00 a.m. at the Star Center, 11515 Colima Road, Whittier, CA 90604.

TREASURER'S REPORT

Vice Chairperson Bacio reported that the current bank statement balance of the Commission's Charitable Fund is \$1, 763.93.

COMMISSIONERS' REPORTS ON GROUP HOMES AND/OR DETENTION FACILITIES INSPECTIONS FROM APRIL 15, 2010 TO APRIL 20, 2010

Children Are Our Future (Legg House) – 7, #3 - Commissioners Bigby and Hill The facility was visited on April 16, 2010 and was found to be in unsatisfactory condition.

Areas of Concern: The kitchen remodeling should be completed in one (1) week. Replace blinds in family room and kitchen; master bathroom needs shower door and fixtures replaced; and repair or replace hallway cabinet doors. Bedroom #1 need blinds and dresser repaired. Tubs and sinks in bathrooms need re-caulking and carpet on stairway replaced. A Corrective Action Response Form was issued and the Commissioners plan to return in 30 days.

Orange County Children's Foundation (Emancipation Institute) – 33, #3 – Chairperson Montaña The facility was visited on April 19, 2010 and was found to be in satisfactory condition.

Olive Crest Treatment Center – 31, #3 – Chairperson Montañño and Vice Chairperson Bacio The facility was visited on April 20, 2010 and was found to be in satisfactory condition.

On motion of Commissioner Hall, seconded by Commissioner Moore and unanimously carried, the Commission approved to submit a letter to Sheriff Baca citing the Men's Central Jail's cleanliness and commending the new innovative inmate book and dog programs initiated.

NEW BUSINESS/ANNOUNCEMENTS

Commissioner Hall arranged for the Commission to visit the New Lennox Sheriff's Station, 1310 West Imperial Highway, Los Angeles, CA, on April 27, 2010 at 10:30 a.m.

Lee Millen, Staff, noted that Cooper's Concessions & Cafe Services located in the Kenneth Hahn Hall of Administration, whose services are less expensive, could provide catering for the Commission Business meetings. The Commission concurred.

Commissioner Hill assisted three high school graduates residing in Group Homes or foster care to register for Junior Colleges.

Commissioner Hall's non-profit organization paid for three young ladies to attend their prom.

Following discussion, on motion of Commissioner Bigby, seconded by Vice Chairperson Bacio and unanimously carried, the Commission approved to present Sandra Barbee, Chief, Commission Services, a \$100 gift card in gratitude of her endearing support to the Commission.

On motion of Vice Chairperson Bacio, seconded by Commissioner Moore and unanimously carried, the Commission approved donating \$200 to Jaime Zamorano who is adopting a probation foster child on April 22, 2010 at the Pasadena Courthouse; he has already adopted the foster youth's siblings. Commissioner Bigby and Hill plan to attend and will present the check to Mr. Zamorano.

Staff was directed to email the Commission By-laws for review at an upcoming meeting.

Commissioner Hall will not attend the May 5, 2010 meeting.

PUBLIC COMMENT

There was none.

ADJOURNMENT

The meeting was adjourned at 12:00 noon.